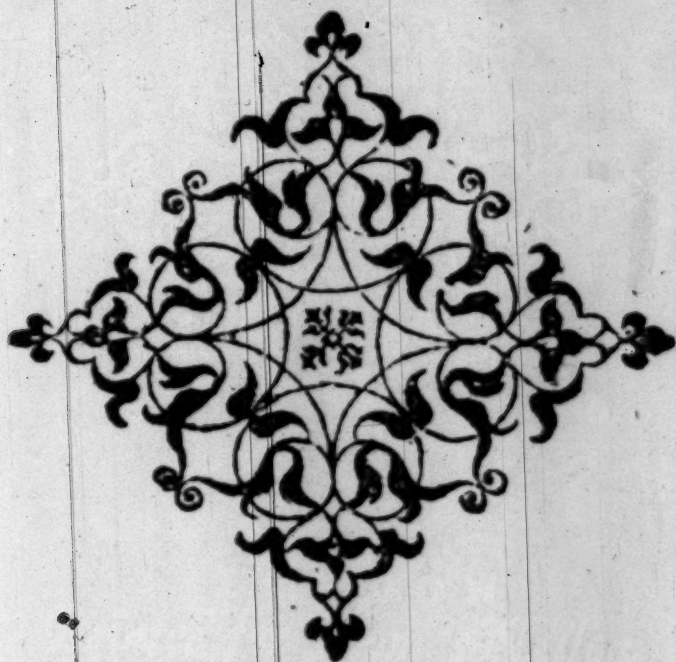


A Subtill practise,  
vvrought in Paris by Fryer  
Frauncis, who to deceiue Fryer  
Donnet of a sweet skind Nun which  
he secretly kept, procured him to go to

*Rome, where he tolde the Pope a  
notable lie concerning the ta-  
king of the king of Franco  
prisoner by the Duke  
de Mayne:*

For which; they whipt ech other so gree-  
uously in Rome, that they died thereof  
within two dayes after.



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THE

WEST INDIES

AND

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I have at length (gentle cosen) obtayned some leisure to acquaint you with the condition of my welfare, which I assure you to be farre better, then the usuall uncertainty of a traveller. For departing out of England under the right Honorable the Lord Willoughbies protection, we happily arrived at Deepe in France within a little while after, whence marching unto the frontiers of the enemy, we shared our fortunes in those famous atchievements that attended the actions of the invincible Henry of Bourbon, which hot pursuit of Honor once slackte, I tooke my way to Caen in Normandy, where I have remained ever since, in what state you may imagine by my old wonte, merrly I thanke God, how ever the devill now and then, somewhat youthfully disposed makes a dauncing schoole in the bottome of my purse for a whole weeke together. But thats but Fortune de la guerre, as the knave of clubbes said when he was banisht the Towne, Wherefore to come to the purpose of my promise at our parting, (which was to send you such newes as this Countrey brought forth) so it is that since the late battaille wee have had nothing worth the noting, save onely this, which is pleasant to some, though irkesome to others. At what time the king lay in leaguer of Paris against the dastard traytor de Mayn, the said recreant Duke had amongst his holy orders two well fedde friers, whereof the one was his bawdy ghostly father, and principal confessor, the other was his chuffe headed Chaplaine, and chiefe chaunceling in ordinary. The first of them (whom they hight Frier Donner) was in loue with a sirugge fast Romaine, about some nineteene yeares of age, as good a wench as ever harde Masse at high midnight, which sat Fran-



cis espying (for so was the younger called) began like wise  
 to licke his lippes after her, and slauer out his loue in sighs as  
 well as he coulde, but seeing no way to compasse it, as long as  
 his better was in place, and considering what infinite store of  
 Crownes olde Donner cossered vpp by confessing in the time  
 of the Parisians distresse, and what credite he was in with the  
 Duke, he cast a thousand plattes in his heade, how to displace  
 him of all three at once, but none of them all woulde come off  
 halfe roundly to his contentment a long time. In the end it  
 so fell out that Mounseur Scackerton to reuenge his fathers  
 death, made a little breache into the Citty, and with some few  
 of his followers slewe many of the League then fast a sleepe,  
 in which confused conflict, there was such a monstrous hurly-  
 burly in the Citty, that all the towne was in an uprore, and  
 knew not what should become of them. Amongest them that  
 feared most was this foresaid Nun with breathlesse Donner,  
 that had her in Christ betwixt the sheetes at the selfe same hour,  
 which made the quaking frier call to his fellowe Francis ly-  
 ing in the next chamber, and asked him what was the reason  
 of that turmoile, who answered he knew not as yet, but hee  
 would goe and enquire, within halfe an houre after, hee came  
 in blowing and puffing, and told him a long tale of a tubbe,  
 how the King entring the Citty, was taken by a common  
 souldiour, and presented as prisoner to the Duke de Maine, as  
 then in the market place. Now saies he brother Donner if  
 you will winne your spurs for euer, and behaue your selfe like  
 a right man of God in dede, get you packing presently to  
 Rome, and be the first that shall tell his holinesse of this  
 good seruice, so shal you both come to exceeding promotion your  
 selfe, and be able to pleasure all your friends as you list. The  
 rauisht frier ouerjoyed with this oportunitie, and greedy of  
 Honour and thanks which he hoped to reape by his message,  
 made no more adoe but resigned his office, and sister in bedde  
 to frier Francis both at once, saying if he neuer returned his  
 was the gaine, for he knew by inspiration, that great was the  
 preferment which tended his newes. Francis excused himselfe  
 that the charge was ouerinsighty for him to go through with,  
 and that there were many fitter men to vnder goe it then hee,  
 yet



3  
yet since it had pleased him of his owne free motion, to make  
choise of him before all other, he would endeavour to discharge  
it as well as he could. Many wordes of kindnesse to this ef-  
fect past betwixt them, but the night farre spent and Donner  
in hast of his journey, reacht his pigney a dry kisse, and so de-  
parted through Arr, by shipping to Rheinnes, and from thence  
tooke poste to Rome, where he was no sooner alighted, but he  
rouled up his reverence, and new glazed his lippes with the lin-  
nen, that he might kisse the Popes toe with commendation,  
wherein hee failed not a whitte, for meeting his holinesse as he  
went to Saint Peters to heare masse, he doubt to worne so low  
as his garters would let him, and with a snakes mouth let fire  
at his slipper. Then began he with a dompticks grace to dis-  
course the late conquest of Leaguer de Maine, against that  
Huguenot Henry of Bourbon, who in a single combate had o-  
uercome him, and took him prisoner most brauely, to the great  
advantage of the sea Apostolicke, and utter discomfiture of all  
usurping hereticks, amplifying by the way of an oratorall  
Protopopeia, what despayring lamentations were made for  
him, by the English excommunicats, and the outlawes of Ge-  
neua, and in the Epilogue of his eloquence, he protested such  
allegiance, as if he would dispute with the devill in defence of  
the papacy. The gorgeous controuler of Princes that at this  
while had attended his speech, attracted such inward ioy from  
this tale of successe, that he commanded Masse to be sung in e-  
very church, bono fires to be made in the streetes, and a so-  
lemne procession to be held throughout Rome, in which hee  
himselke marcht along to Saint Angelos, vnder a rich cana-  
py supported by foure Cardinals, sprinkling the beholders with  
holy water all the way hee went. Neither was Donner a  
small property in this pageant, for hee had the bearing of the  
principallest Crosse that day, allotted him in honor of his tra-  
uaile, whiles these things thus were a doing in Italy, the King  
entred battaile with de Maine, and by the wonderful working  
of Heaven, (as it is not unknownen in England) chased him  
the fielde, and made him retire for rescue to Mentz, in the ha-  
bite of a common souldier, where it is saide hee tooke sanctua-  
ry. Through which accidentall mishappe Frier Francis with

his Rume now put to their shifts, and not hearing what was become of the Duke, determined to try the courtesie of other Countreys, since they found so little safety in their owne. But amorous Brigetta, that longed after the first customer, perswaded him to convert his course into Rome, whereto he easily condescended. As they were thus on their way, the Duke du Maine, despairing in his awkward proceedings, and quite confounded in his forlorne cheualry, wrote lamentable letters to his holinesse, by one Mounsier Belowe a frenche man, wherin he passionately reported his ill fortune, and dismall discomfiture, cursing the starres that did boade him such bitter mishap, and the day that gave light to that luckelesse disgrace. These letters came to the Pope in the midst of this triumphes and honors done to frier Donnet, that now was in good hope to bee Cardinall. Yet he came short of his longing, for when his beatitude beheld this balefull discourse, and with throbbing heart had perused those pitifull contents, he called me his messenger in question, who with trembling told him, that whatsoever he had reported proceeded from one frier Francis, that had thus informed him, and that he knewe of nothing but by him. By this time was the saide Francis with his Rume come to Rome, and there thought to anchor secure from all encombrances of warre, but alacke for pittie, that might not be, his partner had espyde him, and hee must needs come before the Pope, wher being examined upon the cause and the Dukes letter shewne in the nick, he was so confounded in his true senses, that straight he confessed all the knauey, and appealed to the court for mercy. Yet notwithstanding there conioyned submission, they were adiudged for penance of their presumption, to goe barefoote and barelegde through Rome, and whip eache other with whippes of wicke toppe and doloure the Citty, which the day following hee performed very faithfully. For frier Donnet angered at the heart at frier Francis, to heare his treacherous conueyance about the Rume, curst him selfe a thousand times that he had not a two hand whippe to torment him, yet with that short weapon that he had, hee belabored him indifferently, and Francis on the other side wounded him with his wiry wasters so wel fauoredly, that his back spat blond



bloud in his face at euery stripe he gaue him, who so hath seene  
 two iackes in a clockhouse striking his none with their oppo-  
 site hammers may well conceiue this anticke resemblance.  
 Donnet he behaued himselfe like an old fencer, that fetcheth  
 his blow with a flourish, one while setting his right legge for-  
 ward as though he lay at back-sworde, he would ayne at a  
 boane in stead of a button, another while framing his toe to  
 the turne, he would bring his whippe about his head with a  
 whiske, and peirce through his thicke skinnie coate into the in-  
 ner regions of his ribbes. Francis thinking this was verie  
 soule play to come behind a man and strike him like a coward,  
 and finding by proue howe painefull it was to darre to this  
 three stringed musicke, rayled vp himselfe on all tenne like a  
 gander, and gaue him such an item ouer the shoulders, that he  
 had little neede of any other Phlebothome in two monethes  
 after, for it came so edglong, that it discarded all the skin from  
 the necke to the middle, and put Donnet besides his sence with  
 the suddaine amazement, yet casting his eyes on his Quæte  
 dum that went along by them he fell to it a fresh, & made such  
 furrows in his fat brothers flesh, as a man might haue seene  
 through the flesh to the bones: and he likewise layde such load  
 on my confessor's curets, that he lost aboue two lath of wire in  
 the loynes of his backe, whose raiwbond ridges shewed in all  
 pointes so like a redde lattice, that if a tinker had seene them  
 he would vndoubtedly haue mistooke him for an alehouse. To  
 be short, in this mutuall combat continued they for the space of  
 three houres, till the wearinesse of their strength and extreni-  
 tie of anguish, constrayned them to rest. But so vnspeakable  
 was their paine (as it is reported here in Caen) that what  
 with sorrow for their fault, & shame of their punishment they  
 dyed within two daies after. Thus haue you heard in as briebe  
 sort as I could, the cometragicall historie of these unfortunate  
 Fryers, which is so laughed at here, and so much moned  
 elsewhere. When I haue more newes I will send you more,  
 in the meane time be merry with this, which I assure you for  
 the substance of it is true, although it faile in some circumstance,  
 and so for this time I take my leaue, hoping to see you ere long  
 in England. From Caen in Normandie by your friend.